

COMMERCIAL.

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1860.

An unusually dull week has been entombed only by the arrival of the bark *Rover*, 16 days from San Francisco, en route for Japan, bringing the U. S. mail of March 5, and a few passengers. She sailed again the same day for her destination.

Advice by the mail report the market for island produce as dead, and price reduced very heavily.

The infatuated public had induced very heavy shipments of some articles from Eastern ports via Cape Horn, and even by the small steamers via Panama. The shipments of refined sugar and butter particularly are large. This must serve to depress that market still more.

The advice in regard to the Pacific are favorable. A sale of the cargo will be made at our exchange office, at 5 p.m., which is only about the cost of the article here.

We have before expressed a fear that the heavy shipments were in excess of the demand at San Francisco, which could only result in injury to our dealers. A cessation of shipping for a time is the best remedy of this evil.

The trade balance has been turned out during the week. Part of it, that was in the hold of the vessel, has been very much damaged, and must be submitted to a survey. Some invoices, however, are in perfect order. The general average has not yet been made out, but it is thought not to be heavy.

Our whalers have now left us for their summer cruises at the North, one vessel only remaining in port, and she will sail in a day or two.

The practical results of the French treaty are beginning to be developed, as will be seen by the following item from the *Polysonian*. In a review of the French treaty, a year or more ago, we maintained that no other construction could be given to the treaty than that which the Minister of Finance had been compelled to give it, and that the whole expense on the public treasury for whencever it may be the cost of such custom houses—probably several thousand dollars.

CUSTOM HOUSES.—We learn from a reliable source, that his Excellency the Minister of Finance has given notice that it is his intention to charge a duty of 10% ad valorem on Sections 552 and 557 of the Civil Code, that any charge for Custom House guards, under the latter section, against vessels, would be illegal. The Minister of Finance, in his note to the Treaty, said it is also very clearly out that the 2524 Section does not authorize the fees of Custom House guards to be charged against the vessel, and that the Minister of Finance, in his note, reserves the government to provide for the payment of officers employed in its own interest. The Code does not define the term "Custom House," and the view of the Minister of Finance is, that vessels are not liable for the fees of Custom House guards.

The brig *Mary Ellen* (formerly the *Kauai*) has been laid up for the birth of Oregon, and will be despatched next week. It affords a fine opportunity to order goods from that port.

STEAMERS.—The advice from California has not as yet paid off, as yet, but the market is considerably older, and better made for export of Farmer rates. We quote dark at 50¢ to 61¢ light, 70¢ to 80¢. The *Pioneer* took away nearly seventy-five tons.

THE PACIFIC

Commercial Advertiser.

THURSDAY, MAY 3.

We have occupied a good deal of space in our paper of late, in the consideration of the school reforms proposed by the *Polysonian*, from a sense of the importance of the subject, as connected to a dangerous extent, in reference to it. His projects of reform have been based on but very partial acquaintance with the condition and their educational wants of our people, and with their attainments in knowledge; and he has evidently written under the influence of a strong sectarian bias, combined with a narrow prejudice against the pioneers in popular education on the islands, as we had occasion to remark, nearly two years ago. Judging from his late editorials, we should put him down as an out and out enemy of popular education, as his scheme would leave half of the nation without instruction, and send them back to heathenism in ten years.

Having demolished the structure set up by our contemporary, our readers may inquire what reforms we have to propose in the schools, or whether we are satisfied to have them go on in the old beaten track, at the old rate.

SCHOOL TAXES.—Sandwich Islands tobacco has been sold at auction to the extent of 175 lbs from 32¢ for a few packages to 32¢ for larger lots, and closes daily. At the close 27¢ 50c is all that remains.

COPPER.—Sales at 15¢ 17¢.

LEAVES.—Leaves of Pisonia Sound by the cargo \$19 20¢ 25¢ Oregon \$18.

SAFETY.—Safety a dozen worth 28¢ 29¢ ton.

FLOUR.—Domestic California \$5 40¢ 50¢.

NEW BANGOR OIL MARKET.—During the past week sales have taken place in this market of 600 bbls sperm oil at \$1 44¢ per barrel, for home consumption, and bbls do for export, at \$1 45¢ per barrel. The market is now closed.

SCOTIA.—The *Gazette* says:—The market closes dull, and we notice a decline from the highest point obtained. Oil of Sandwich Islands is now quoted at 25¢ per barrel, and 25¢ per bbl. bright at 10¢ 11¢, and 15¢ mate at 7¢ 8¢.

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